

government, arts and culture, business, education, and religion.

BID on Culture is a new initiative developed through the partnership between the 125th Street Business Improvement District and the Harlem Arts Alliance to help build a community-based vision of Harlem's heritage, its role as a vibrant cultural center, and to promote the continued revitalization of 125th Street as the commercial and artistic heart of Harlem.

BID on Culture Banners will extend the brand of 125th Street as the center of culture in Harlem, a diverse community with an unparalleled history of contribution to the nation in all fields of human endeavor. Let me recognize the five selected artists whose banner designs will be displayed on the 125th Street Corridor.

Andrea Arroyo, a Mexican born, New York-based artist whose work has been exhibited in twenty-four individual and more than eighty group shows in galleries and museums. Andrea is in the public collections of The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, The Library of Congress, the Mexican Museum in Chicago and numerous private collections in the US, Mexico, Europe and Japan. Her public art projects include commissions for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York, the New York School Construction Authority, City Arts and the Florida Art in State Buildings Program.

Laura Gadson is a native New Yorker raised in Jamaica Queens. A graduate of Fiorella LaGuardia High School of Music and Art, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the City College of New York. She has been a teaching artist since age 14 for a variety of public and private New York City institutions. Ms. Gadson's craftwork is in the private collections of Susan Taylor, Iyanla Vanzant and other collectors. Her work has been exhibited in the New York State Museum in Albany, The Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center, Columbia University and she currently has two quilts on a National Tour until 2010. A Harlem brownstone has been her home studio and personal gallery since 1993.

Obatola Wilhelmina Grant, a native New Yorker and resident of Harlem is an assemblage artist, creating pieces from discarded objects. Obatola was formerly the Director of Programs and Administration at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and before that the Director of Community Outreach for SHARE, Self-Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Language Arts from Hunter College and expects to graduate in June from Hunter with a Masters of Science in Urban Affairs. She has exhibited at Bank Street College, Union Theological Seminary, the Simmons Gallery and the New York Public Library.

Sharon Lewis, a graphic designer, originally from Detroit, Michigan, now based in New Rochelle, New York, Sharon is a Production Associate at DMD Insight, a boutique agency specializing in integrated marketing for arts and culture, architecture, design, philanthropic and financial services clients. She has a BFA in Industrial Design from Columbus College of Art and Design and her career focus has been print design in the fields of publishing, advertising and law.

Shimoda, a Harlem-based artist, whose work has been featured on television on The Cosby Show, HGTV—Crafting Coast to Coast, in the magazines Essence, Braids and Beauty,

and YSP, and the book *Jumping the Broom: The African American Wedding Planner*, among others. Shimoda's exhibit and presentation schedule includes Bank Street College, The National Black Arts Festival, The Mt. Vernon Library, Mt. Vernon NY, the Center for Book Arts, and the Donnell Library in New York City. She serves on the crafts panel for the Artists' Fellowships of the NY Foundation for the Arts, has taught beading at Brooklyn Academy of Music and Harlem School of the Arts, assisted Sonya Clark and Joyce Scott at Penland School of Crafts, NC and Ralph Lauren with his 1998 beaded jewelry collection.

The 125th Street Business Improvement District (BID) is a non-profit organization funded primarily from an additional tax assessment collected from the property owners within the defined boundaries. Organized in compliance with state and city laws, the property and business owners determine the services and programs needed for the district. The BID will utilize the competition to bring visibility to its streetscape improvement efforts and to enliven the community's central business district.

The Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) is a non-profit membership service organization committed to nurturing the artistic growth and organizational development of artists and arts organizations primarily in Harlem and its surrounding communities. Comprised of over 400 individual artists and arts organizations, HAA is the only service organization of its kind in Harlem and plays an essential role by helping to build the resources, network and capacity of its richly diverse membership. Counted among its members are young emerging artists as well as established and internationally recognized artists. Also represented are small grassroots organizations and major cultural institutions in Harlem and beyond. Major funding for HAA is provided by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Corporation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Council.

Barbara Askins, President of the 125th Street BID says the BID on Culture project "seeks to maximize the value of the 125th Street corridor by initiating efforts to secure the future of cultural presentation and production in Harlem and to encourage the ongoing revitalization of 125th Street as a premier arts and culture entertainment destination."

Michael Unthank, HAA Executive Director, says that "over the past 10 to 15 years,

125th Street Corridor has emerged as a major destination anchored by not just local and national chain retail outlets but also by major cultural institutions such as the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Apollo Theater."

TRIBUTE TO JOHN McNAMARA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the entire nation the service and sacrifice of firefighter and 9/11 first responder John McNamara.

A 10-year veteran of the New York Fire Department, John is currently assigned to Engine Co. 234 in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. He is a

first responder who not only assisted during the search and rescue efforts following September 11th, 2001, but also assisted the New Orleans Fire Department and the citizens of Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Formerly a resident of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and currently a resident of Blue Point, Long Island, John is valiantly struggling to survive a nearly three-year battle with Stage 4, metastatic colon cancer. John, age 43, and his wife Jennifer have a 2½ year old son named Jack.

In the firefighting tradition of "leaving no man behind," John's friends and fellow firefighters at Engine 234 / Ladder 123, Engine 220 / Ladder 122, the Blue Point Volunteer Fire Department and the New York City Firefighter Brotherhood Foundation are working hard to see that John and his family are supported as his battle grows more difficult.

Like John, many of the brave first responders who served at Ground Zero are now struggling with debilitating diseases as a result of their courageous efforts. As a nation, we made a promise to help all those who suffered as a result of the heinous acts of September 11th. We must keep that promise. We must ensure that those brave first responders receive the medical care and other support they need.

Today, we in Congress honor John McNamara for his service to New York and to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO MARSHA T. DuPONT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marsha T. DuPont.

Marsha was born in Brooklyn, NY, to Deacon Clyde Tarrant, Sr. and the Late Catherine Britt Tarrant. She is the only girl child out of three children born; her siblings are Clyde Tarrant Jr., and the Late Bruce Tarrant.

She received her education from Public School 11 and Rothchild Junior High School both of Brooklyn, New York. Marsha received a scholarship from Fashion Industries Vocational High School, where she graduated valedictorian and Female Athlete of the Year, class of 1972. She continued her education attending and graduating from LaGuardia Community College and Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in pattern making and fashion design. She later changed her career and attended and graduated from the Grace Downs Vocational Air Career and Hotel Management College in Glen Cove, Long Island. Marsha was employed by the Inter-Continental Hotel for 10 years as Reservations Manager. She changed employment to the Drake Swissotel Hotel in New York City where she also worked as Reservations Manager for 17 years. She received numerous awards and departmental training certificates and she was also cited as Employee of the Month and Manager of the Year. Marsha was loved and respected by her staff and fellow co-workers; she was always giving career opportunities to others.

Marsha's love and flare for fashion and decorating encouraged her to form a company